Replace the paragraph starting on page 17, line 13 with the following:

The novel nucleic acids provided by the invention include those that encode a NOVX protein, or biologically-active portions thereof. The encoded polypeptides can thus include, *e.g.*, the amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, or 12. The novel nucleic acid sequence encoding the NOVX proteins of the invention, *e.g.* NOVTRAN, NOVNEUR, NOVGON, and NOVINTRA A, B, and C, include the nucleic acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11, respectively.

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REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-3 and 56-68 are under consideration. Claims 4-55 are cancelled. The subject matter of claim 4 appears in new claims 56 and 57. Claims 5-55 are cancelled as drawn to non-elected inventions. Support for amended claims 1-3 and new claims 56-67 can be found in the original claims as filed. Support for new claim 68 can be found in the specification, for example, on page 38, lines 5-8. No new matter is added.

This Preliminary Amendment clarifies several informalities found in the specification as filed. Support for the amendments on page 4, lines 2, 5, and 23, page 16, line 12, and page 17, line 17 can be found in the specification on page 10, lines 4-6. Support for the amendment on page 10, line 13 can be found in provisional application USSN 60/169,056 filed 12/6/99 (incorporated by reference in its entirety). Support for the amendment on page 12, line 14 can be found in provisional application USSN 60/169,866, filed 12/9/99 (incorporated by reference in its entirety) under SequenceID: AL049871. Support for the amendment on page 13, lines 12-14 can be found in the specification on page 15, lines 8-15 and in figures 16A and 16B. Support for the amendment on page 14, line 11 can be found in provisional application USSN 60/170,252 filed 12/10/99 (incorporated by reference in its entirety) under SequenceID: AC016724_B. No new matter is added.

Applicants make this amendment for the sole purpose of expediting prosecution. These amendments are not made for reasons related to patentability.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact either of the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version With Markings to Show Changes

In the claims:

Claims 4-55 were canceled. Claims 56-68 are new.

Please amend claims 1-3 as follows:

1. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising [an] the amino acid sequence [selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a mature form of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting] of SEQ ID NO[s]: [2,] 4[, 6, 8, and 10;

(b) a variant of a mature form an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10, wherein one or more amino acid residues in said variant differs from the amino acid sequence of said mature form, provided that said variant differs in no more than 10% of the amino acid residues from the amino acid sequence of said mature form;

(c) an amino acid sequence comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10; and

(d) a variant of an amino acid sequence comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10, wherein one or more amino acid residues in said variant differs from the amino acid sequence of said mature form, provided that said variant differs in no more than 10% of amino acid residues from said amino acid sequence].

2. (Amended) [The] An isolated polypeptide [of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide comprises an] comprising the amino acid sequence of a [naturally-occurring allelic] variant of [an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of] SEQ ID NO[s]: [2,] 4[, 6, 8, and 10].